

Parent March Newsletter

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. Being engaged in his education and activities is very important to his social, academic and emotional well-being, as it gives you the opportunity to stay informed and provide assistance when necessary.

Staying engaged can include asking your child about her day, sharing a snack or a meal, having a hobby, or just listening to your child. You also can let your child know you are interested in her academic success. A few simple actions can reap tremendous rewards. In addition to asking your child about his day, take time to look at any papers from school. Do not forget to reward successes by having a prominent place to display work, such as on a bulletin board or refrigerator. Also make an effort to support your child in school activities including performances and sporting events.

Building a positive relationship with your child will provide benefits, not just during the school year but for a lifetime. The Center for Effective Parenting offers Arkansas parents a wealth of information and tips. The link to the website is <http://parenting-ed.org/for-parents/>.

As you look at ways to become engaged with your child's teacher, consider asking the following questions.

- How do I talk with my child about college and careers?
- How can I help my child apply what he or she learns in school to everyday activities?
- How can my child use technology to enhance learning?
- How do I help my child utilize mathematical problem solving?
- How do I help my child become a proficient reader?

Severe Weather Preparedness

With spring around the corner, March is a good time to focus on severe weather preparedness. Use this time to prepare for a severe weather emergency by reviewing your family's severe weather plan. Severe weather can develop very quickly, so it is vitally important that your family be prepared in the case of a severe weather emergency. Once the severe weather approaches, it is too late to start working on a plan.

How can you make sure your family is prepared? To be prepared you and your family should know basic terminology, such as the distinction between watches and warnings. You should also have a reliable method of receiving emergency information, a stocked emergency kit and appropriate shelter. Also be sure to conduct drills to test your plan to ensure your plan will be effective in the event of an emergency.

As you review your family's emergency plan, think about the following questions:

- Does my child know what to do if severe weather occurs while he or she is home alone?
- Does my family have regular tornado drills?
- Does my family have a prepared disaster kit?

To learn more about how to put together an emergency kit, check out the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.



<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>